PUERTO RICO
RED CROSS PLAQUE

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1898

19½ : 18

3¼" Pencil

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PUERTO RICO

PUERTO RICO 1898

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PUERTO RICO
1898

PUERTO RICO
1898

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Enlarge to 8" dia

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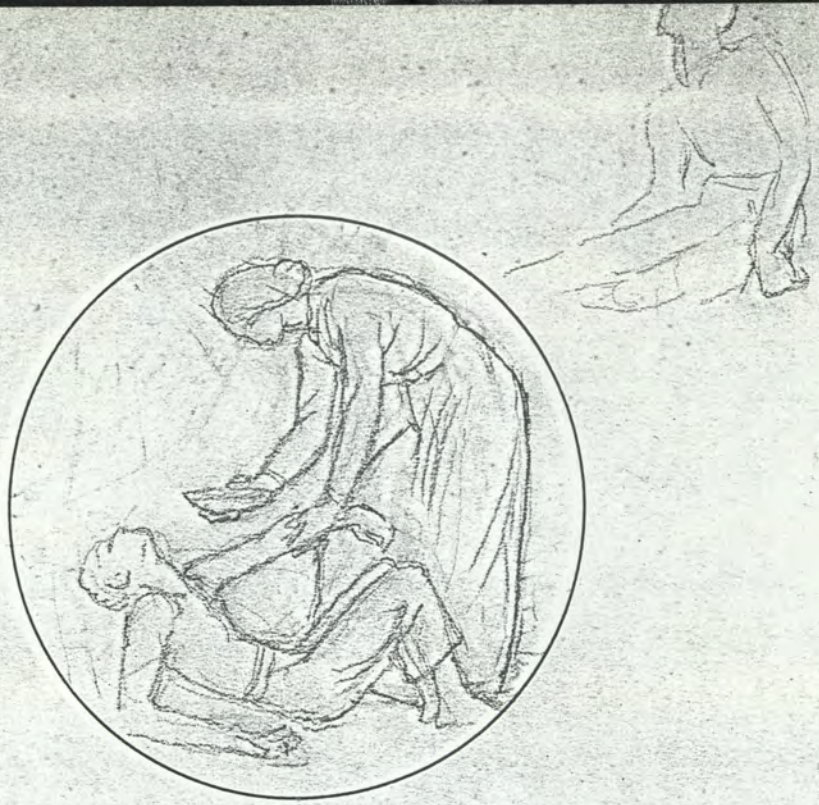

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PUERTO RICO
1899

PEOPLE • HUMANITY

FOR HUMANITY

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PUERTO RICO 1898

PUERTO RICO
1898

COMMITTEE FINAL
18½ INCHES

FINAL 18 INCHES

PUERTO
RICO
1898

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OK

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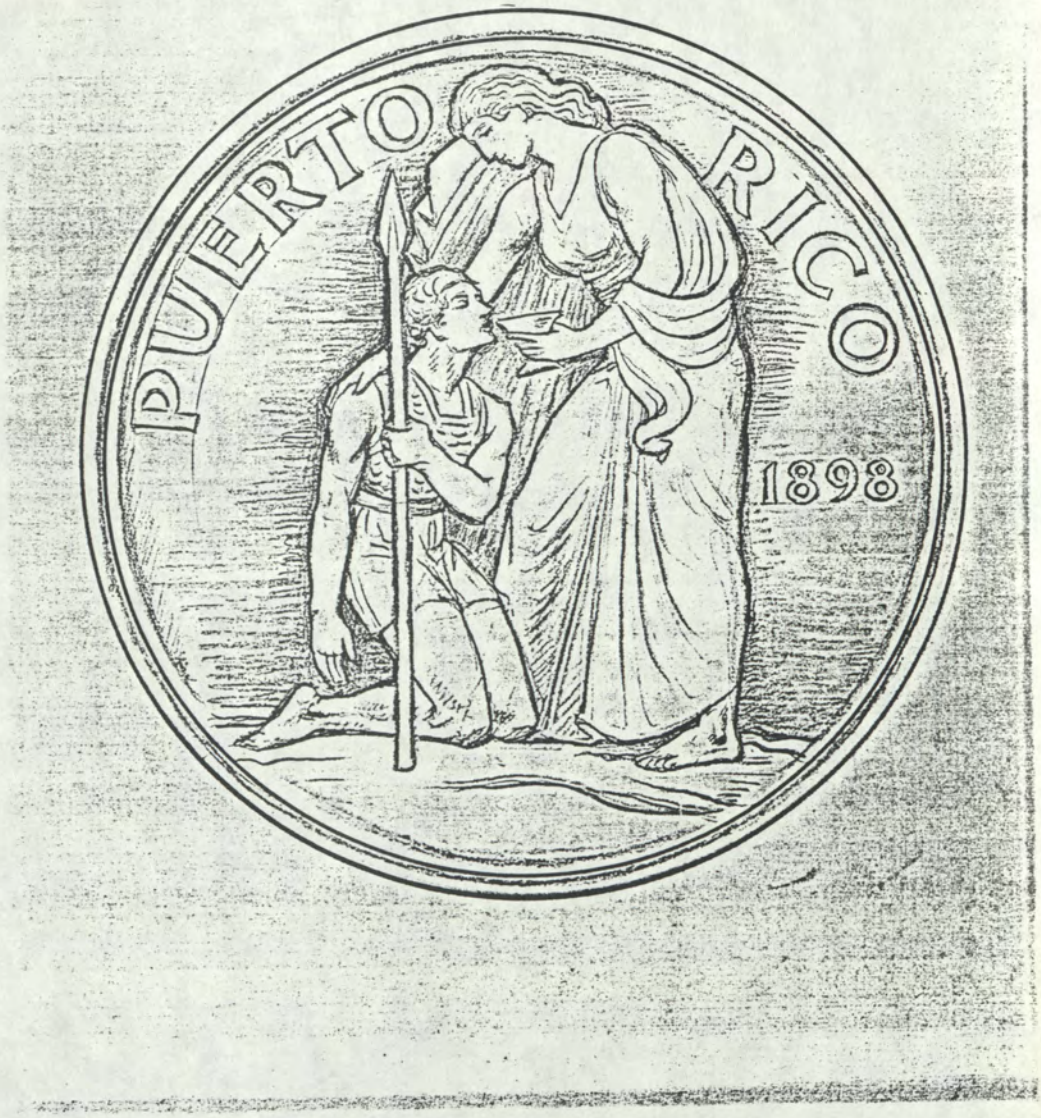
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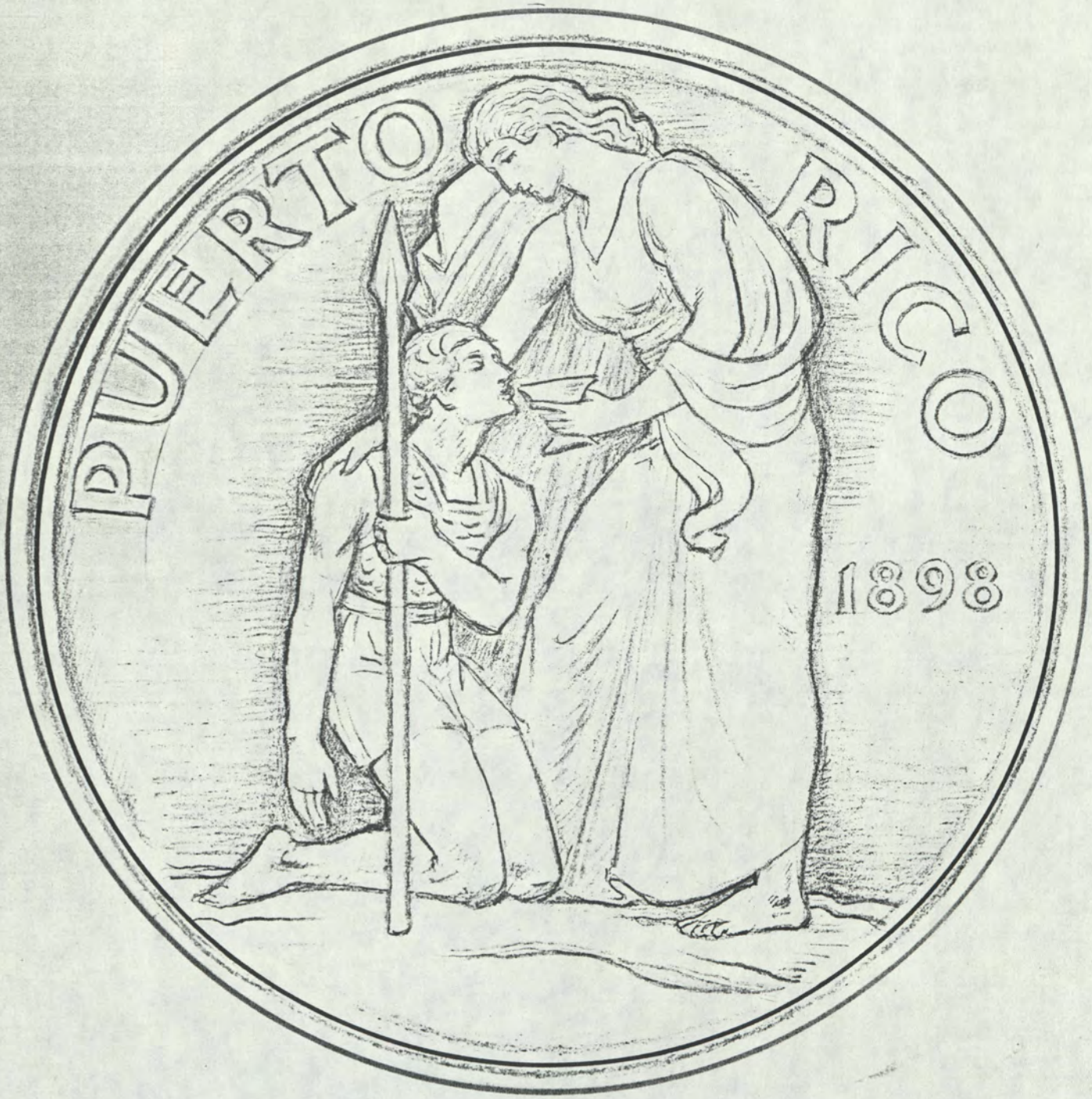
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SKETCHES AND MODEL FOR PPR-15

FOR HUMANITY

PUERTO RICO 1898

PUERTO RICO
1898

SKETCHES AND MODEL FOR PPR-15

FOR HUMANITY

PUERTO RICO 1898

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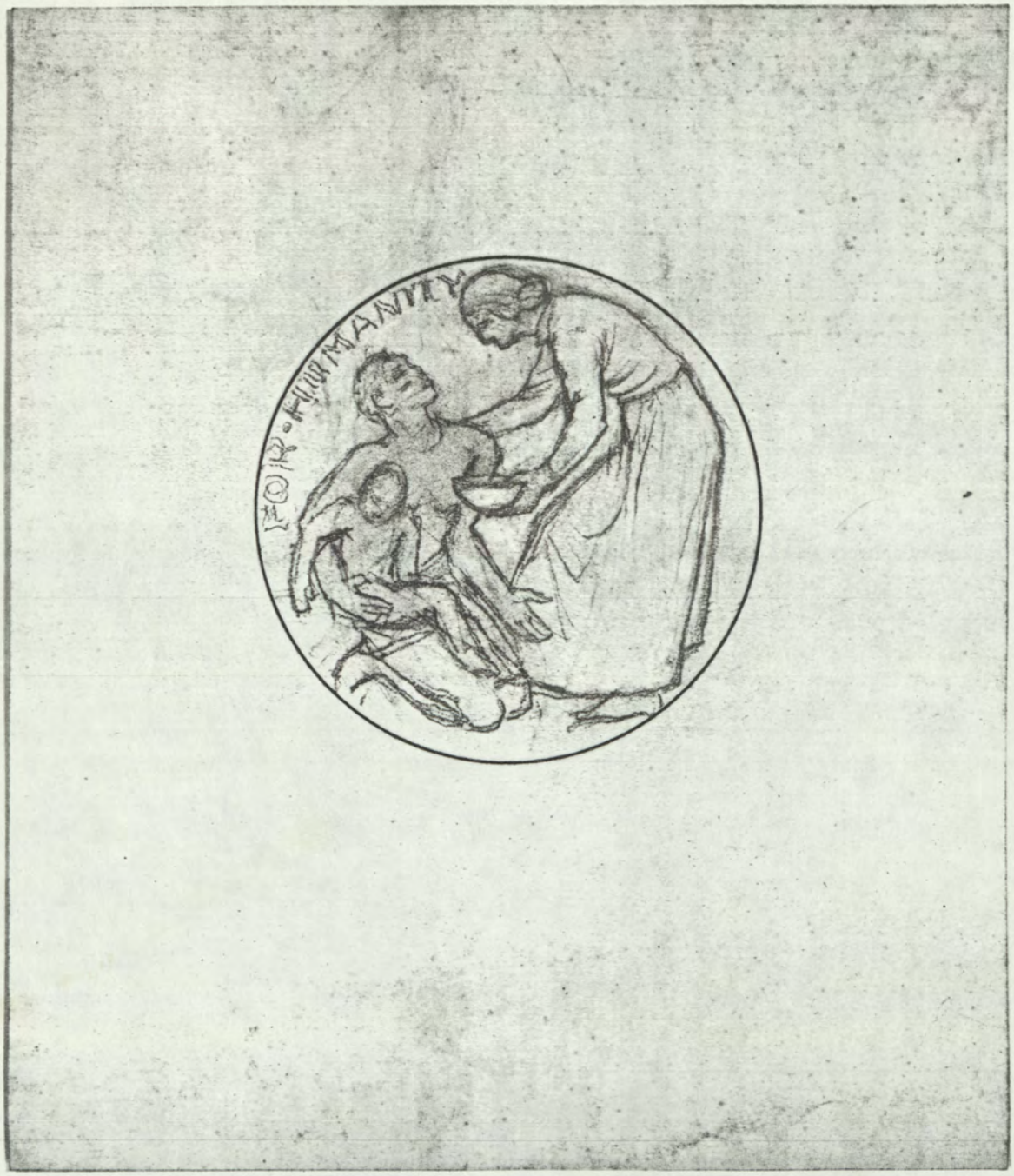
1898


FOR · HUMANITY

March 7, 1989

Mr. Harris:

Thank you for taking the time to answer my ad for ARC Medals. Please excuse the delay in my response.

I have dug into the meager research material and did not find any reference to a medal.

I have enclosed a copy of what I do have on the ARC that is pertaining to Puerto Rico and the Spanish-American War.

If I may be so bold as to make a few statements about the ARC and what I know of the times.

The ARC was only 17 years old at the time of the SAW and it was there third International relief effort (pre-war) the first American conflict for them. Clara Barton had war experience from the Civil War but the U S Government had not worked with the ARC or had Women in official capacity before. It was quite a mess trying to help the troops. Also it was the start of infighting within the ARC itself.

I do not believe that the Medal was made at the time of the SAW. I do not believe that it was made for a foreign Red Cross. If the Puerto Rico Chapter of the ARC uses the date 1898 for there start it could have been made in preparation for there 50th Anniversary. I do not know how much lead time is needed to properly prepare a medal.

If I might ask you for some help. The U S Mint did make Medals for the ARC. I had discovered this in R.W.Julian's articles in the TAMS Journal. Would you please tell me who to write to at the Mint to get more information on the medals they produced for the ARC. Julian's Book does not cover the years that I need, 1881 on.

I think I have uncovered one for a 1912 International Conference that was held in the U.S.

Thank you for your time and any help you might be able to give me.

Respectfully,

Doug Malaznik

Doug Malaznik
7232 Vaughan,
Detroit, MI 48228

officers in charge. The Red Cross helped by furnishing sterilizing apparatus, hypodermic syringes and needles as well as other supplies. It even provided female nurses.[123] Up to September 1, 1898, the Red Cross furnished the greater part of the hospital equipment. The military medical officers admitted again and again that the "hospitals never could have equipped themselves from the ration fund. They would have broken down utterly without the aid of the Red Cross."[124]

The experiences of Red Cross at Fort McPherson and Camp Hobson, Georgia, were similar to those of other camps, except that the operations were carried on on a smaller scale.[125] Mention however should be made that the field agent of Fort McPherson carried on a communication service for the servicemen, answering inquiries coming from parents and friends about the condition of the sick in hospitals, a service which has since become general.[126]

At Camp Wyckoff at Montauk, Long Island, Howard Townsend was in charge. Conditions there were appalling. The soldiers had been moved into camp before the water wells were ready. Red Cross, with the help of the Standard Oil Company, was able to supply water for immediate needs. Later, with the aid of the yacht Red Cross, it distributed supplies and transferred patients to New Haven and adjacent cities, thereby relieving pressure on the camp hospital.[127] Need for trained nurses in the camp became urgent. Since this camp was opened near the close of the war and Red Cross did not appear on the scene until

123. To begin with there was also a disagreement over the use of female nurses, but as soon as the medical officers saw the nurses in operation they changed their attitude and were full of praise for them.
124. Clara Barton, The Red Cross, pp. 415-419. Even the Jacksonville ladies did much for the sick in the camp, especially the proprietor of the Carleton Hotel, Mrs. Marshall, herself "a ministering angel." She had many sick soldiers cared for free of cost in her hotel and yet was never a day absent from the camp. Other ladies that deserve mention were Mrs. Moulton, wife of Colonel Moulton, and a Mrs. Rich, quiet and unassuming, but a splendid worker. Ibid., 415-19.
125. Ibid., pp. 420-24.
126. Ibid., p. 420.
127. Clara Barton, The Red Cross, pp. 14-23.

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August 7, objection to the use of female nurses was never raised. As many as 140 female Red Cross nurses were used in the divisional and regimental hospitals.[128] Diet kitchens also were established under the direction of a dietary expert. The communication service was particularly satisfying to the sick at Camp Wyckoff. The Red Cross also established canteens for the sick at the railroad dock and an "Emergency Hospital," made of tents, near the railroad station. At these places a glass of milk, or a cup of tea, and sometimes even a few ounces of whiskey were served to inspire the patient to continue on the journey. The hospital tents also sheltered men overnight who had missed their train.[129]

War-Time Operations in Porto Rico and Cuba

The Red Cross operations in Porto Rico had been assigned to Horace H. Barnes of Massachusetts. He arrived at Ponce, Porto Rico, on August 20, eight days after the cessation of hostilities. Several Red Cross female nurses had preceded him, but they had been sent back immediately as attendants of sick and wounded soldiers on board transports. Leaving supplies at the port of Guayama, he began a circuit of the island to study its needs. At Arecibo he met the Spanish Red Cross in service with its national forces and was most cordially received. At San Juan, where the Spanish were still in command, all need for American Red Cross supplies was courteously disavowed.[130] Under Barnes' direction, Red Cross supplied necessities to transports with sick leaving for the States and administered to the sick and wounded left behind. It set up twelve hospital tents, christened the "Clara Barton," and in the

128. The Red Cross nurses were assisted by some 101 Sisters of Charity. See Chart No. 3, p. 164.
129. Clara Barton, The Red Cross, pp. 426-430.
130. Clara Barton, The Red Cross. pp. 460-65. Wm. T. Bennett and Monroe Scott assisted Barnes.

spare moments carried on communications services.[131]

Meanwhile, upon the advice of Admiral Sampson, the State of Texas, for months kept at anchorage in the harbor of Key West, sailed out onto the high seas June 20 enroute for an undisclosed destination in the Cuban waters. The ship with Clara Barton and her staff aboard followed the fleet and six days later anchored at Guantanamo, where the marines had made a landing.[132] The Navy hospital ship Solace was there displaying the emblem of neutrality.[133] Yet Miss Barton, though grateful for the agreement which neutralized naval hospital service, felt that she was not rendering war service, but civilian relief. She was still operating under the direction of the President "to get food and raiment to hungry, famishing and dying creatures," while the committee in New York managed war relief.[134] But she was mistaken; urgent need called for help of the national Red Cross staff. Three days after the relief ship anchored, Dr. and Mrs. Lesser and the four nurses were assisting with the care

131. Ibid., pp. 466-69. Three months experience of Red Cross work in Porto Rico led Barnes to write: "if a man knows how to keep a hotel, run a restaurant, and a refreshment stand; if he be a good grocer, dry goods-man, apothecary, financier, accountant, doctor, and linguist; if he have the strength of a Samson, the patience of a Job, and the cheerfulness of the morning lark; if he have the power to see much and say little, to sweat and not to swear, to behold limitless suffering and be fair to all; if he is pachydermous to the shafts of criticism, diplomat enough to secure universal favor, and worthy to hold it by solid merit, let him try a Field Agency of the Red Cross with confidence, for in such service he will need all of these qualities in abundance." Ibid., p. 470.

132. Captain McCalla was in command at this point and welcomed the Red Cross with a launch pointing out its place of anchorage.

133. Ibid., pp. 552-56. Commander Dunlap of the Solace paid Clara Barton a visit and invited her and staff to visit the Solace. It was the first naval relief ship operating under the Geneva Treaty in the American waters, a direct result of the efforts of Clara Barton in securing the ratification. Too frequently the public has failed to realize that the greatest benefit to humanity derived from the Treaty of Geneva of 1864 and its subsequent revisions lies in what it did for the medical departments of the armies and navies of the world rather than in neutralizing the services of the supplementary Red Cross organizations.

134. C. Barton to Mrs. Sarah B. Earle, June 23, 1898. Press Bk., Clara Barton Papers, Lib. of Congress.

of the sick and wounded at the Reserve Divisional Hospital of Siboney, near Santiago de Cuba. The following day came a formal letter from the surgeon in charge asking Miss Barton's assistance with the war victims.[135]

No sooner had they anchored near Siboney when the wounded from the battlefield of Santiago began to come in, some on foot, having made their way over miles of rough, hilly road, others in army wagons, "as few ambulances were at hand." According to the Red Cross account the number of wounded were estimated as between one and four thousand. Hospitals were improvised. Tent room soon gave out, and hay and blankets were placed outside without any covering for the patients.[136] "The medical department of the Army had failed absolutely to send hospital supplies. The assurance at the War Department that the Hospital Corps would be fully prepared to meet any emergency in the field, and neither needed nor desired outside assistance had been sadly misleading." It had held back relief organizations, especially the Red Cross, which otherwise might have been prepared to help meet the emergency.[137] Conditions were appalling. Many of the troops had been sent into the first day's engagement hungry, having had but little to eat the day before. In the hospital corps as in the commissary department there had been lack of system and management. Fortunately the State of Texas was loaded with provisions and helped to save

135. Dr. Louis A. La Garde to C. Barton, June 30, 1898. Box III, C. Barton Papers. Siboney is a little village between Guantanamo and Santiago. However, several medical officers had refused Red Cross service before Dr. La Garde accepted it and not until Red Cross doctors and nurses had demonstrated their skill in Cuban hospitals was their help sought by the American medical officers. Clara Barton, The Red Cross, pp. 564, 588, 598, 613-15.
136. Clara Barton in her book, pp. 564-65, has a vivid description of conditions as they existed.
137. Diary of Lucy Graves, entry of July 4, 1898. Clara Barton Papers.

many lives from starvation.[138] While waiting for orders to sail, the Red Cross ladies on board the State of Texas had prepared bandages. Moreover, the relief ship contained cots and hospital supplies. So while the surgeons and nurses were probing for bullets and dressing wounds, a force of Red Cross men on board the State of Texas worked half the night getting out cots, blankets, food, hospital supplies, and bandages to supply the emergency needs of the delinquent Army Medical Department.[139]

Clara Barton and her staff were even called to supply food near the front where General Shafter's army was pressing forward. At the First Division Hospital of the Fifth Army Corps, she found conditions indescribable, even to a veteran of the Civil War scenes. Miss Barton felt that in 30 years little had been gained. Cooks without experience and guidance were trying to prepare meals for the sick. Miss Barton was able to help feed the 800 hungry wounded servicemen.[140]

Under such unsanitary conditions epidemics are always rife. Thus yellow fever, transmitted by the Aedes aegypti (yellow-fever mosquito), soon found its way into the American camp and threatened to be a more formidable foe than the Spanish Army and Navy. It appears that the disease first entered the American

138. Major Wm. Duffield Bell, an Army surgeon reported: "The First Division of the Fifth Army Corps Hospital was the only one in the field. The surgical force in this hospital was insufficient to meet the demands upon it, and numbers of the wounded lay unattended for twelve and even twenty-four hours on the bare ground before their turn came. There was an insufficient supply of proper food for invalids, due to lack of transportation...Another great want was the scarcity of clothing and blankets... Men were often taken from the operating table and of necessity in many cases were laid upon the wet ground without shelter...and with little or no nourishment for two awful days, until the Red Cross Society, under Miss Barton appeared on the scene." Published in Clara Barton, "The Red Cross, pp. 616-17.

139. Ibid. On page 561 Miss Barton vividly described the difficulty of unloading supplies from the State of Texas, anchored in shallow but turbulent waters and without a pier or proper equipment for unloading.

140. Ibid., pp. 564-65. Most refreshing to the famished men was the drink prepared from dried apple and prune juice -- "A memorial for that poor neglected spot."

camp in Siboney, where some of the Red Cross personnel were stricken, including Dr. and Mrs. Lesser. Because of lack of knowledge of the nature of yellow fever and how it was transmitted, Red Cross, its staff reduced, was almost immediately hampered in its operations. In fact, some of the medical officers blamed Red Cross for the outbreak of the fever in the American camp.[141]

These circumstances put an end to Red Cross war services in Cuba. However, after the Spanish surrendered at Santiago on July 17, the Red Cross was permitted to continue civilian relief through the distribution of food among the Cubans in Santiago. With the aid of a Cuban guide, the State of Texas entered the harbor on Santiago ahead of the Navy on the evening of July 17. The distribution of relief permitted the return of the 30,000 Santiagans who had fled to surrounding towns during the siege.[142] Red Cross appointed a central committee of Cuban citizens, who divided the city into districts, appointed sub-committees, and distributed food. After the cargo from the State of Texas was unloaded the ship was sent to New-York to save further expense, but most of the Red Cross staff members remained. They set up a free dispensary, visited the neighboring towns and villages as far as 70 miles inland, and arranged with the leading citizens of Holguin, Baracoa, Lagua de Tanamo and San Luis to supervise the distribution of relief. When the need for ice became urgent, arrangements were made with the national Red Cross at Washington to send it. When the Mary E. Morse arrived there were no facilities for unloading the ice. Red Cross therefore arranged with army transports loaded with sick and wounded soldiers to run alongside the schooner and take what ice they needed, and in fifteen days the cargo of 792 tons of ice was exhausted;

141. Dr. Gray of the USA Medical Department was quoted in papers that Red Cross was to blame for the outbreak of the fever at Siboney because it had opened a hospital in a building that had been condemned by the Army. To which Miss Barton countered that "the Red Cross Hospital was not opened until over a week after the American and Cuban Army hospitals had been opened in buildings that had been previously condemned by army officers." Ibid., pp. 617-18.

142. The town of El Caney was especially overcrowded.

some transports had taken as many as 100 tons.[143]

After a five weeks stay in Santiago the Red Cross staff withdrew and the military under General Wood took charge of affairs in Santiago and the surrounding territory. Anxious to pick up the relief work in Havana, Miss Barton secured a ship in government service, loaded it with 300 tons of the supplies sent by the Red Cross auxiliary committees of New York, and on August 21 set sail for Havana. This city was still under the old Spanish rule. The officials, in spite of continued suffering, told Red Cross that they had no need of relief, and that Red Cross would have to pay a heavy duty for its cargo, equal to the original cost of food, and a fine of $500 because the vessel lacked proper clearance papers. To avoid complicating matters for the American commissioners who were about to enter the city to negotiate with the Cubans at Havana, Miss Barton paid the fine and left the city, September 2, convinced that the suffering there was still as great as it had been when the war broke out.[144]

Post-War Relief in Cuba, April - November 1899

Having left the Cuban relief work in the hands of Brainard H. Warner, Clara Barton and her staff sailed for Egmont Key, Florida, there to be released from quarantine. She arrived in Washington the latter part of September and reported to President McKinley and the New York Cuban Committee. Miss Barton explained that Red Cross had withdrawn from Havana in order not to interfere with the negotiations between the American and Spanish commissioners, but that the conditions in Havana had not improved during the war. As soon as the negotiations

143. Clara Barton, op. cit., pp. 620-625.
144. Ibid., pp. 626-30; C. Barton to J. Addison Porter, Secy. to the President, Sept. 7, 1898. Press Letter Bk., pp. 201-202. Clara Barton Papers; Lucy Graves Diary, entry of September 1, 1898, Clara Barton Papers, Box III, Library of Congress.

were completed, she insisted that the Red Cross should return to the field to finish the relief work in Cuba.[145]

Members of the New York Relief Committee apparently had some misgivings about the advisability of sending a woman in her seventies into a foreign land to supervise relief work.[146] Rumors were afloat that the New York Committee was acting independently and contemplating sending its own representative to Cuba. Clara Barton therefore wrote the President's secretary that it would be a mistake to send a relief agent now while the negotiations were in progress and urged the President to stop such action.[147]

When rumors began to circulate that the Army occupation forces were interfering with the Red Cross relief organization in Cuba, Miss Barton sent D. L. Cobb to investigate and to confer with the U.S. commissioners.[148] Cobb reported early in December that the Cuban evacuation commissioners had recommended to President McKinley that Red Cross be asked to take up the hospital work in Cuba and that the U.S. government distribute the food.[149] Before the close of the year, 1898, Red Cross officials interviewed the President and the Secretary of War in regard to Cuban relief work.[150] The latter expressed the desire that

145. C. Barton to J. Addison Porter, Secy. to President McKinley, Sept. 7, 1898. Press Copy Bk., pp. 201-202. Clara Barton Papers, Library of Congress.
146. It is possible that President McKinley had a similar feeling, for when Miss Barton reported to him about her work, he kindly asked whether she did not want an extended furlough, that she was as deserving as any of his military heroes. B. C. Williams, Clara Barton, p. 370.
147. C. Barton to J. Addison Porter, Sept. 7, 1898 Press Bk., C. Barton Papers, L. C.; Lucy Graves Diary, entries of Sept. and Oct., 1898; Clara Barton's Diary of the same period.
148. The report was that certain Army officers had expelled Warner and Conkling from the Red Cross Warehouse at Gibara, Cuba, "at the point of the bayonet and placed Capt. Woodson in charge." Apparently the incident was settled without too much trouble. S. E. Barton regarded the act as "an arrogant assumption of authority on the part of the military, and an indignity to the Red Cross." Lucy Graves Diary, entries of Nov. 5 and 30, 1898. Clara Barton Papers, Box 3, Library of Congress; Clara Barton to Samuel M. Jarvis, Nov. 15, 1898, Press Copy Bk. p. 319. Clara Barton Papers.
149. Lucy Graves Diary, entry of Dec. 4, 1898.
150. Lucy Graves Diary, entry of Dec. 24, 1898.